

Appl. No. 10/065,254
Amendment dated December 17, 2003
Response to Office Action of November 24, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the benefit claim to further include a reference to the intermediate prior application. Since the benefit claim was originally included in the first sentence of the specification as filed, and the amendment merely seeks to clarify the chain of prior applications, its entry is respectfully requested and would be much appreciated.

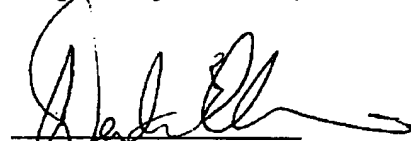
In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants have elected group I claims 1-21 for examination and have withdrawn group II claims 22-42 from consideration without prejudice.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned attorney at his number set out below.

Dated: December 17, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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